

With the majority of Maryville landlords having their leases end April 30, students are struggling to work out housing accommodations for the days of finals during May.

Leases end amid finals week

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The University calendar will go into May from this semester on, but the majority of local landlords have their leases ending April 30, leaving students scrambling for solutions.

The University is operating on the old calendar with finals ending May 3 and commencement May 3-4 and will start a new calendar for 2019-20 including extended breaks, pushing finals to end May 8 and commencement May 8-9. The trend of finals going into the second week of May will continue throughout the next academic calendars.

Vice President of Student Affairs Matt Baker said leases wouldn't exist without college students and that student schedules

should dictate lease dates.

"A landlord could say leases are May 15 to May 15 or May 13 to May 13; it's an arbitrary day they chose," Baker said. "We put the academic calendar up two years in advance, and so it's not like they couldn't have known."

Maryville landlord Terina Sears said she has attempted to talk to University leaders about her concerns with students' leases ending during finals week.

"They (University leaders) said it is very simple, we should just change our lease date or prorate," Sears said. "I explained to them I am happy to do so and try to work with the students, but it is a domino effect, and there so many landlords in the Maryville area."

A Shirley's Realty Salesperson, who wished to remain anonymous, said they are still trying to deter-

mine what to do about leases ending before finals end this semester.

"We are kind of struggling with that this year because most of them (students) need 'til about the 4 or the 5 (of May)," the salesperson said. "We didn't know all of this was going to happen last year. What would be better is if the University tried to wrap everything up by May 1."

Senior Kelly Hoffmann is graduating this semester and her lease is supposed to end April 30, but her landlord is prorating the lease until May 4.

"Last year, whenever we realized that graduation is going to be May 4, we texted our landlord and asked if we could stay until May, and she told us just to go ahead and sign the lease until April 30, then we would figure out a solution this year," Hoffmann said.

"Then she said that if people who are going to take the apartment over after us were OK with waiting until May 4 to move in, then she would be OK with us staying."

Provost Jamie Hooymann said the new calendar is created based on two main factors: the Higher Learning Commission accreditation requirements and student input. She said last year a group of students, faculty and staff came together to create the new calendar.

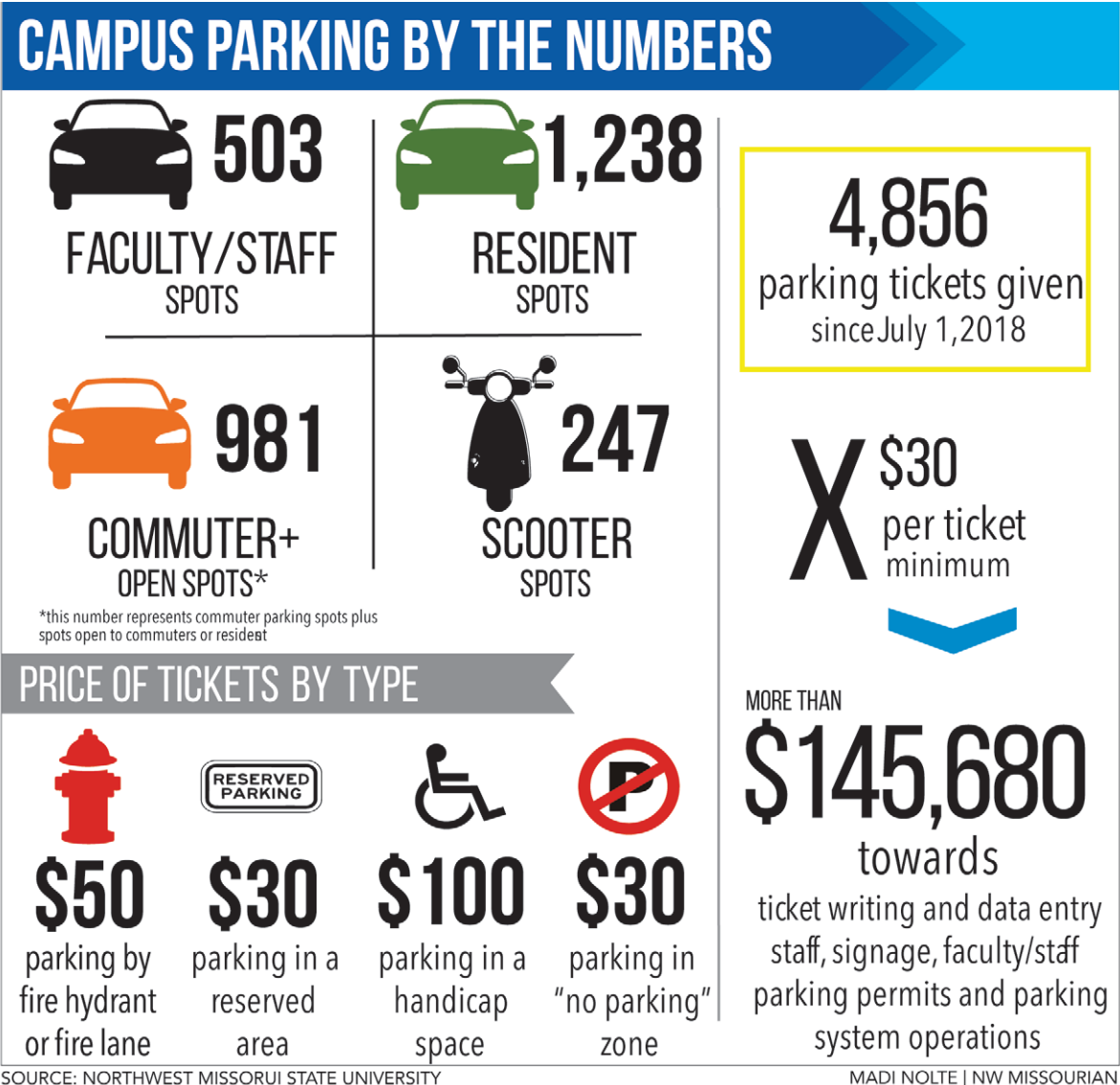
"It was a neat process because there was so many different people involved, and we gained a lot of input and a lot of insight," Hooymann said. "Of course, anytime you make that four-week Christmas break or you add that fall break in, it's going to make changes across the board because we have to have so much contact time there's no choice in that."

Both the University and landlords are looking to provide solutions as needed for students caught in the middle.

"I am looking at my seniors that don't have a choice of moving, and if there is somebody more flexible, I am signing them to their apartment so I can prorate their rent and not make them move out early," Sears said.

Baker said Assistant Vice President of Residential and Auxiliary Services Rose Viau is working to determine the need from students for possible housing on campus during finals week.

"Do we want to open a floor, do people want to pay \$25 a night and bring their sleeping bag and phone and their phone charger and stay in a residence hall room?" Baker said. "If there is a demand to open some spaces, we certainly can."



Cattlemen convene at state Capitol

MAKENZI TURLEY
Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

Students from an emerging campus organization visited the capitol to explain the importance of three agricultural bills to Missouri's senators and state representatives Feb. 27.

Four Northwest's Collegiate Cattlemen's Association officers attended the weekly Cowboys at the Capitol program. The program allows members from the Cattlemen's Association to voice their opinions about problems within agriculture to state legislatures.

President senior Ashlynn Lingle, Vice President junior Garrett Louiselle, Co-Public Relations Chairman sophomore Abigail Oelrichs and Co-Public Relations Chairman junior Kaitlin Arnold visited the capitol.

With the help of Northwest alumnus Sydney Thummel, who now works for the Cattlemen's Association, and the connections that Louiselle had within the Missouri Cattlemen Association they were able to attend Cowboys at the Capitol.

All four students were able to speak with elected officials about the problems that the Cattlemen Association has as a whole.

The young Cattlemen spoke about three different bills. A House bill that covers property rights, another House bill that deals with integrity rights and Senate Bill 391. According to trackbill.com, Bill 391 "modifies provisions relating to county health ordinances."

"It seems like right now we have a lot of issues within the agriculture and cattle industries that need to be advocated for to our senators and representatives," Oerlich said.

"We have a lot of bills that we are trying to pass, and us taking the time out of our day to go there and talk with each one of them and reassure them that we are here for a good cause really helped."

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Student Senate vetos fee decrease

SAMANTHA COLLISON
Chief Reporter | @SammieCollison

Student Senate voted against lowering the co-curricular fee, which provides its budget, during its meeting March 5.

The Student Senate fees committee proposed lowering the co-curricular fee from \$0.50 per credit hour to \$0.40 per credit hour during the Feb. 19 meeting.

If the fee was decreased, students taking 15 credit hours would save \$1.50 per semester.

The fee change failed with six votes in favor, 32 votes against and one abstaining.

The fee originally passed in fall of 2017. Student Senate had \$30,000 left over from its 2017-18 budget, which prompted the fees committee to propose lowering the fee.

With the leftover budget from last year, \$15,000 was used to re-carpet and paint the J. W. Jones Student Union, \$3,356.29 to improve the International Flag Plaza and \$300 to furnish the on-campus prayer and meditation rooms.

Lowering the fee by \$0.10 would have reduced the Student Senate budget by around \$15,000.

When lowering the fee was first proposed, most discussion was in favor. On-Campus Representative Madi Cobb said that when she was the student affairs chair last school year, she felt pressure to spend all of the ample budget.

“Sometimes I felt I was blowing money just to spend it,” Cobb said.

**FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURI NEWS.COM**



Sophomore Alex Palzkill accepts the keys to her new moped from Chief University Police Officer Clarence Green Feb. 28, in the Student Recreation Center.

Grocery Bingo adapts to growth

JESSE REED
Chief Reporter | @reedjesselee

MASON BIGLER
Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

The Student Activities Council made several changes to Grocery Bingo in order to accommodate nearly 700 participants Feb. 28 in the Student Recreation Center.

Grocery Bingo is an event where students play games of Bingo, and the winners are given a bag of groceries to take home, free of charge.

Freshman and SAC Special Events Director Britney Poage

hoped for a high student turn out.

“We’re hoping for around 900 students, hopefully, throughout the pregame and regular Grocery Bingo, if not more,” Poage said.

The event hosted 698 students, falling short of SAC’s goal.

To accommodate the large student attendance, SAC made adjustments from last semester’s Grocery Bingo.

Poage explained the changes implemented by SAC.

“We’ve added a whole bunch of extra tables, some more space... where people can stand if we fill up the tables,” Poage said. “We also moved the groceries up on top of the track, and we bought more than double the amount of groceries this semester.”

To ensure the groceries were distributed to numerous students, each game ended every 50 winners, and winners could not play again.

SAC also included a pregame before the main event starting at 9 p.m. The Wellness Center lined a portion of the track with games, activities and information around alcohol awareness for students to engage in.

“The idea behind adding the pregame is basically where they [the students] have a different alternative for going out drinking or whatever beforehand,” Poage said.

“We partnered with the Wellness Center, and they brought in little games or whatever they needed to do — little pamphlets, you know, fun informational stuff against alcohol prevention.”

The prize pool was also changed, expanding from groceries to include a parking pass for the 2019-20 school year and a new moped donated by the University Police Department.

“It wasn’t something I really decided,” Poage said. “It was just UPD was like, ‘Hey, do you think it’s a good idea? and I said, ‘No, that’s great.’”

Clarence Green said the moped was a valuable incentive for students to show up.

“We just brainstormed last year for ideas to get people to come to this,” Green said. “(The Grocery Bingo) is meant to encourage students away from substance use, you can come here and mingle, get some sweet prizes and enjoy a night on campus.”

Sophomore Alex Palzkill, the winner of the moped raffle, said she was caught off guard by the sudden announcement of her victory.

“It was very surprising to say the least,” Palzkill said. “It is very exciting and a little overwhelming because there are a lot of things to con-

sider when owning a moped. I ended up gifting it to my roommate who does not have a car and needed one very badly, so she was very grateful.”

SAC also held other activities alongside the games of bingo and raffles for the moped and 2019-20 parking pass.

Five students won a bag of groceries through answering trivia tweets on the SAC Twitter account @NW_SAC senior Alek Lanter explained.

“Just a little bit of fun facts (were) thrown in there,” Lanter said. “So nothing that people should know, per say, but just fun little tidbits of information.”

A dance-off also provided four students with a bag of groceries.

Held between four students, the dance-off took place in the middle of the event. Each student showcased their best dance moves for the students in attendance.

Senior Alia Irvin was one of the four students who busted a move in the dance-off.

“I just love to dance, so I figured I’d participate,” Irvin said. “It wasn’t bad. Definitely could’ve had a better song, but I still tried my best.”

However, the main source of winners came from the games of bingo.

Several students filled their cards with a bingo and won a bag of groceries, leaving an overall feeling of satisfaction.

Lanter expressed his thoughts on the event.

“I think it went really smoothly,” Lanter said. “I came to it last semester as well, and overall, this was a lot more smooth preparation, seems like it was well thought out. Everyone got a bag of groceries it seems like, so everyone’s come out a winner.”

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Stress Busters 10am The Station Grief Group 3pm Station Boardroom	2
3	4 Clean Bearcats 12pm Wellness Center	5 Meditation 12pm Alumni Dining Room #Relationships 2pm The Station	6 Career Day 8:30am-1pm Hughes Fieldhouse Care Painting 10am SEC Wellness Wednesday 11:00am Union Meeting Room C	7 Dare to Self-Care 11am Alumni Dining Room	8 Stress Busters 10am The Station	9
10	11 Meditation 12pm Alumni Dining Room #Relationships 2pm The Station Flourishing 7pm Union Ballroom	12 International Coffee Hour 2:30pm B.D. Owens Library Pop-Up Women's Center 4pm Student Engagement Center	13 Dare to Self-Care 11am Alumni Dining Room everyBODY 3:30pm The Station Open Mic Night 7pm Union Living Room	14 Stress Busters 10am The Station Grief Group 3pm Station Boardroom	15	16
17	18 Clean Bearcats 12pm Wellness Center	19 Meditation 12pm Alumni Dining Room #Relationships 2pm The Station	20 Clothesline Project 10am-3pm Bell Tower Bobbypalooza 11am-1pm Bell Tower	21 Dare to Self-Care 11am Alumni Dining Room	22 Stress Busters 10am The Station	23
24	25	26 Have a safe	27 Spring Break, Bearcats!	28	29	30
31						



Professors Kamala Tabaor, Daniel Smith and Kim Caesy sit as panelist during a debate held Feb. 27 debating gun control, prison reform, voter turnout and the death penalty.

JUSANI JACKSON | NW MISSOURIAN

Club hosts hot-topic political debate

KENDRICK CALFEE
Chief Reporter | @KendrickCalfee

Northwest students and faculty discussed gun control, prison reform, voter turnout and capital punishment in an open discussion debate hosted by Northwest's Criminal Justice Club Feb. 26.

Leaders of the CJC presented questions on issues and opened the floor for discussion on each. Approximately 25 students attended, and a panel of faculty from the political science department helped keep talking points productive and focused while encouraging diversity of thought and opinions throughout the evening.

Members of the panel included assistant professor Daniel Smith, associate professor Kimberly Casey, assistant professor Jessica Gracey and instructor Kamala Tabor.

The first question of the night was whether or not those present agreed with Missouri's constitutional carry law, which allows Missouri residents to conceal and carry a firearm without advanced training, government background checks or a permit.

Many made comments on how the legislation could affect state residents.

"I find it dangerous that anyone could get a gun and carry it anywhere without being trained, and

there should definitely be background checks for people trying to get them," Northwest Young Democrats Club president junior Tyler Bears said. "It's not the best idea to let just anyone carry a gun."

Others said the bill upholds a constitutional right for anyone to bear arms.

"I agree with the bill," Northwest College Republicans president junior Daniel Foose said. "I think it makes our second amendment rights easier to attain and keep without government interference."

The constitutional carry law went into effect Jan. 1, 2017, as Missouri became the 11th state to pass the law at that time according to "GunsToCarry," a concealed carry guide.

There are 15 states that have constitutional carry in place, with some having laws of resident-carry only or concealed-carry only. Three states have a limited form of permitless concealed carry.

"I have no problem with the second amendment, but I think people should know what they are getting themselves into when they chose to have a gun," Bears said.

A few questions later, the issue of voter turnout came into discussion, and students shared their take on why it is a problem, especially for college-aged individuals.

Junior and member of Young Americans for Liberty Taylor

Moore said automatic registration could improve college-aged voter turnout.

"Some states are seeing how automatic registration is working and are talking about pursuing it," Moore said. "It's not a bad idea."

Automatic voter registration is an updated version of a statute originally requiring certain states to provide citizens the opportunity to vote when applying for or renewing a driver's license under the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

Some states are taking this further with automatically registering individuals to vote, and giving them the ability to opt-out if they choose.

Others said voting days should be made national holidays or moved to the weekends.

"It is something that a lot of people talk about, but it is hard to tell if those kind of solutions are viable," Smith said. "If it's made a holiday, there are chances people will take it as a day off and not show up in that regard either."

The final two questions brought speaking points on morals and ethics of policy within the criminal justice system.

Those in attendance discussed the death penalty and if it is a viable punishment in modern society.

FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM

Heartbeat bill goes to Missouri Senate

KENDRICK CALFEE
Chief Reporter | @KendrickCalfee

The Missouri House of Representatives advanced one of the nation's strongest pro-life bills in an afternoon of debate, leading to what could be a ban of almost all abortions in the state.

Missouri House legislature passed House Bill 126, the "Heartbeat Bill," that would make abortions illegal in the cases of a detected heartbeat, cases in which a baby has reached the age it can feel pain, and in selective abortion cases of sex, race or down-syndrome diagnosis. In addition, the legislation would require that both parents are notified before an abortion takes place.

The bill advanced with a 117 to 39 full house vote Feb. 27, and will head to the Missouri Senate where it will undergo committees and suggested amendments, according to the Missouri Legislature. If it passes the Senate, it would go to the governor's desk for signature approval or rejection.

Rep. Sonya Anderson, R-Mo., spoke in favor of the bill during debate.

"I am proud that Missouri, the Show-Me State is showing the rest of the country that we will stick up for the unborn," Anderson said on the House floor.

Those in opposition of the bill said it limits a woman's ability to choose under Roe v. Wade and that not having language in the bill directed toward cases of rape, incest or similar situations is dangerous.

Rep. Cora Walker, D-Mo., said she is terrified of the bill.

"There's been no combination of such draconian laws and measures," Walker said in an interview with KSDK, NBC affiliate of St. Louis.

Lawmakers across the country are proposing similar legislation limiting abortion. Many states are willing to uphold state laws regarding abortion that would be carried out in spite of the 1973 Roe v. Wade federal ruling establishing a national right to abortion.

States proposing anti-abortion legislation are including what is referred to as the "trigger ban," which is defined as exceptions for abortion only in the case of medical emergencies.

Trigger bans would go into effect if the bill passes in that state and if the Supreme Court over-

turns Roe v. Wade, according to The Kansas City Star.

Those with similar "trigger" bans on record are Louisiana, Mississippi, North Dakota and South Dakota. Efforts to pass similar bills are present in Florida, Kentucky, Ohio, South Carolina and Tennessee.

Missouri Gov. Mike Parson said in a statement that he agrees with Missouri's proposed legislation so far.

"I applaud the bipartisan efforts of the Missouri House of Representatives for choosing to take a bold stand to protect women's health and the right to life," Parson said.

The heartbeat bill makes an abortion taking place in violation of the bill provisions a class B felony.

It requires a physician to first look for a heartbeat of the unborn before going through with an abortion. If a fetal heartbeat is noticed, the physician can not undergo or induce an abortion.

If there is no heartbeat detected, an abortion can take place but must be done within 96 hours of the fetal heartbeat test.

Physicians that do not perform a heartbeat test prior to inducing an abortion could have their medical license rejected, suspended or revoked and could have to pay up to a \$1,000 fine.

Any physician who performs an abortion after a fetal heartbeat is found would have their license revoked and any future license applications denied under bill provisions.

Rep. Crystal Quade, D-Mo., shared a personal story on the house floor about being sexually abused by her father as a child, according to the Kansas City Star. She said provisions discussed would not have helped her if she became pregnant.

"I see nowhere in your bill for people like me," Quade said. "Gentlemen, what would I have done?"

Since the bill does not have exceptions for rape or incest, there is an estimated potential \$7.7 million loss of funding for the state from federal Medicaid.

This is due to it appearing to conflict with Medicaid regulations regarding abortion, according to The Chicago Tribune.

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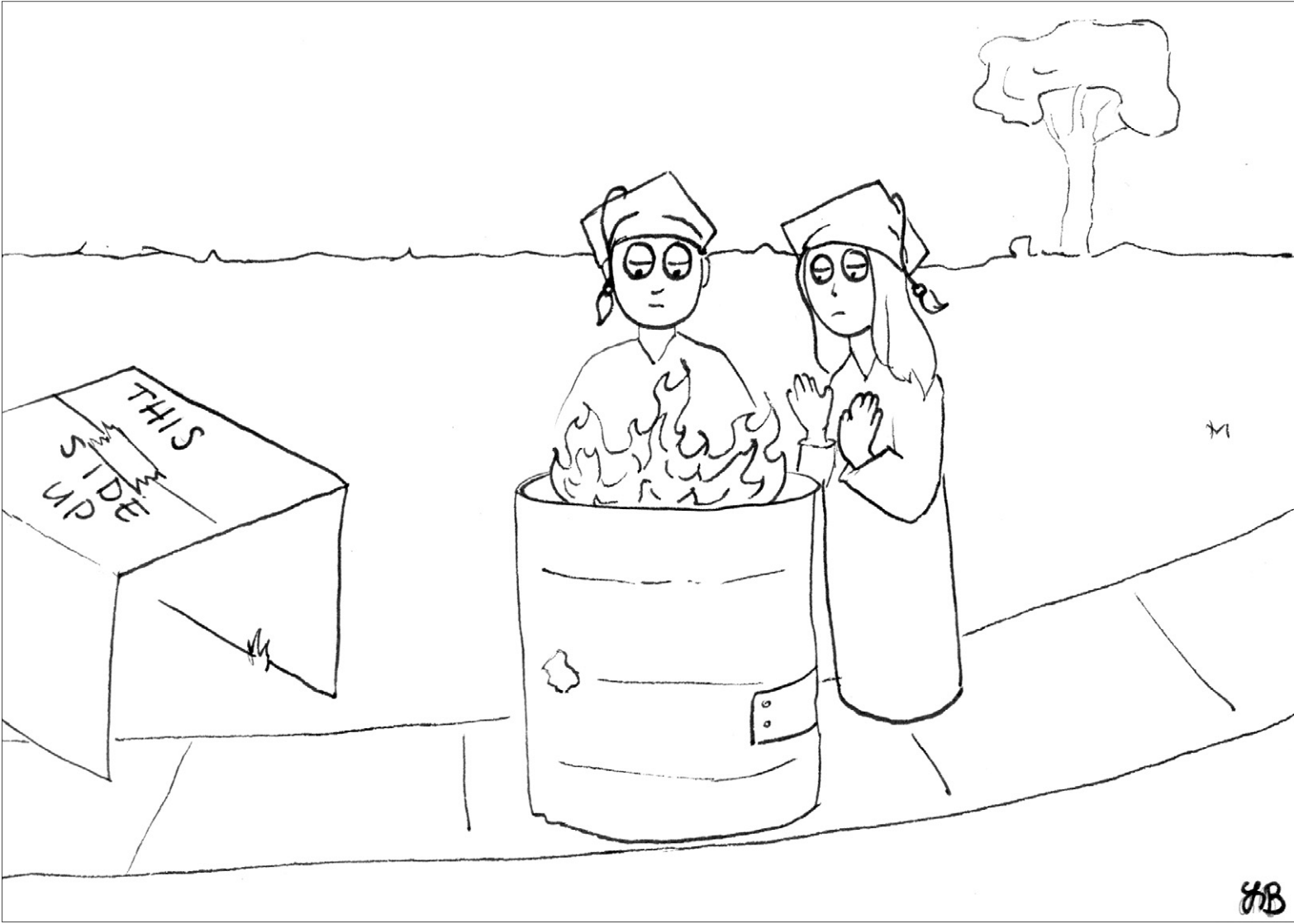
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LEAH BRUCE | NW MISSOURIAN

OUR VIEW:

Landlords need to communicate

The University’s academic calendar is released two years in advance, so there is no excuse for local landlords to still have May to May leases when the finals week extends past May 1.

Starting this semester, finals week and commencement are scheduled past May 1. Students asked for a full week for Thanksgiving and four weeks for Winter break, and they got it, pushing classes further into May in order to meet accreditation requirements.

Students should not be scrambling and worrying about having to move during finals week or having their lease prorated. When signing a lease students should take the time to read through their lease because it is a binding contract so they can be aware of their ends dates and discuss this with their landlords. However, even with this landlords should do their jobs and simply check the University calendar before creating leases because the biggest population of their tenants are going to be students.

There is a very simple solution to the issue that will probably look pretty chaotic when May rolls around—change the future leases to be June to June. June to June leases would alleviate all the stress need-

lessly placed on students. Finals week is already a stressful time, and this just amplifies it.

There is a vast network of landlords in Maryville, but no committee has been created to join together allow them to come to one, cohesive solution.

“There are many people who have maybe bought a rental property for their kids to go to school and then just kept it and rented it,” Landlord Terina Sears said. “There are professors that have bought an apartment building or two and gotten into it, but there are so many numerous landlords, and we have no system of knowing who one another is, so we can’t communicate with one another to organize it between us.”

The University offers its own form of housing, and the issue of leases and finals week does not fall on its shoulders. Yet, even the University is still willing to work with students about this problem. Vice President of Student Affairs Matt Baker said the University would be willing, if there was a large enough need for it, to open up on-campus housing for students who had nowhere to stay after their lease was up.

Even the University is more

willing to take on this problem and find a solution than the landlords. It should and needs to be entirely up to landlords to look at and understand the academic calendar and use it to then create leases.

Students are caught in the middle of chaos we did not ask for. A lot of the students affected by this are graduating seniors who are leaving at the end of May. They have no failsafe or new apartment to move into if they are kicked out of their apartment once their lease ends, but still required to stay in town for finals.

All the hotels in Maryville are filled up by now during that time because of graduation. So, students who can’t commute from their homes in other cities and states, they are left hanging in an uncertain situation of possibly just living in their cars for a few days.

But again, landlords are the biggest component of this. The calendar is easily accessed on the Northwest website. A five minute Google search on the part of the landlords could save students months of stress. Moving forward, landlords need to change their leases to be June to June because the academic calendar will extend into May.

Animators take stand against sexual assault



Few people think of cartoons and simultaneously think of crimes as serious as sexual harassment and assault.

Unfortunately, the connection between the two seems to be getting stronger and stronger. However, for every cloud, there is a silver lining. Companies in the animation industry are putting forth an effort to stop the problem at the source.

Recently, the media entertainment company Rooster Teeth ended all relationships with voice actor Vic Mignogna following allegations of sexual assault. Mignogna has made an appearance in several animes throughout the years, voicing characters in “Fullmetal Alchemist,” “RWBY,” “Dragon Ball Super: Broly” and many more.

In January, female fans began stepping forward and mentioning incidents in which they’d experienced instances of sexual harassment and even sexual assault from Mignogna.

While this particular round of allegations has been the most recent and attention-getting, Monica Rial, who voices Bulma in “Dragon Ball Super,” took to Twitter saying allegations like this have been made for years.

“This behavior has been going on for 15 plus years,” Rial said. “We’re not going to allow it anymore.”

Mignogna released his own statement on Twitter denying all allegations of sexual harassment/assault, as well as other allegations concerning homophobia, anti-semitism and/or pedophilia. Nevertheless, Rooster Teeth ended Mignogna’s employment, and only five out of the 18 conventions he was scheduled to appear at this year have kept him on their guest roster.

Allegations of sexual harassment and assault are not restricted only to anime.

**FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM**

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Animals need space, PETA misjudged

Dear Editor,

Steve Irwin's charm and charisma cannot disguise the fact that he made his name by harassing wildlife.

His death was genuinely sad, but while he was still alive, PETA criticized his mistreatment of animals—such as invading their homes to provoke and disturb them and dragging frightened animals onto TV talk shows for publicity. It would be disingenuous for us to say otherwise now.

As the release of “Leaving Neverland” makes clear, death doesn't magically absolve celebrities—even those who were lauded during their lifetimes—of wrongdoing.

While Irwin built his career on agitating wildlife who were mind-

ing their own business, PETA's fieldworkers devote theirs to aiding suffering, forgotten cats and dogs who desperately need help.

Last year alone, we served more than 25,000 animals from more than 250 cities, and spent more than \$2,300,000 on companion-animal services locally. Our fleet of mobile clinics has spayed and neutered more than 161,000 animals at no to low cost to their guardians since 2001.

Every year, the majority of animals brought into PETA's care are sterilized, provided with veterinary treatment, or otherwise cared for before being returned to their guardians.

PETA is proud to offer end-of-life services for people who can't afford to pay for their sick and dying animals to be put to sleep. We

offer a peaceful end to suffering for animals who are elderly, feral, sick, dying, aggressive or otherwise unadoptable.

When adoptable animals come our way, we find them excellent homes or transfer them to high-traffic shelters for a chance at adoption.

Just as true conservationists respect animals by giving them their space and privacy, true advocates roll up their sleeves and do what's needed to prevent and end needless suffering. I invite readers to visit www.PETASaves.com to learn more about our work.

Yours truly,

Colleen O'Brien
Vice President of Communications | PETA

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Students win lawsuit against local landlord

To Whom It May Concern/ Readers of the Northwest Missourian,

I am writing this letter to you in regards to the original post about a student, Stephanie Ruch, having problems with a landlord.

In the original post, it said my roommate, Alexis Taylor, and I, were taking our old landlord, Dr. Wayne Chandler, to court regarding security deposit, pet deposit, prorated rent and moving costs. I also saw Dr. Chandler wrote a letter regarding this issue.

I just wanted to write a follow-up letter regarding the dispute, for readers to receive the whole story. In the very first post, it was said that we were taking Dr. Chandler to court, in which we did Feb. 28,

Thank you for your time,

Stephanie Ruch

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University has no plans for additional parking

KEJI AKINMOLADUN
Chief Reporter | @OluwatoyinKeji

There have been 4,856 parking tickets given out so far this fiscal year, with an average of 11 parking tickets a day.

University Police Chief Clarence Green said the money from these tickets goes toward ticket writing staff, data entry staff, signage, parking permits for faculty and staff and the other operations of the parking system.

Freshman Gracie Roach said Northwest may not need additional parking but should be more considerate of students.

“Maybe we shouldn’t have addi-

tional parking but maybe more open to who gets to park at certain spots,” Roach said. “There should be changes in restricted parking areas.”

UPD has towed cars during football games in the past and will continue to do so. They make sure the parking lot between Mel Tjeerdsma Field and North Complex is clear for the families who have reserved parking.

“Typically, we tow less than eight cars a game,” Green said. “We have roughly over 200 spots in that lot.”

Green said UPD tries to make sure the message gets across for students to move their cars from

the parking lot closest to the field. UPD has received feedback over the years on how to alert students regarding parking.

“We do announcements and pre-messaging,” Green said. “With us posting signage, making announcements through the building and social media posts, we’ve communicated the information out there. We’re always up for more suggestions on how to communicate.”

Students must contact UPD to obtain their cars and are charged a \$100 ticket for the towing services.

Senior Samantha Mageto said there should be more spots for commuters.

“We need more parking spaces especially for commuters,” Mageto said. “We have more space near the Ron Houston building and the Hughes Fieldhouse. There should be parking spots near there.”

Green said with enrollment being stable UPD is not looking to add any additional parking spots to campus. UPD is working on refining and repairing the spots Northwest has.

“Looking at some of our gravel lots, maybe paving those and putting asphalt down or even maybe moving to a hard surface,” Green said. “This year it’s going to be a strain because the winter weather and potholes are everywhere around Maryville in-

cluding campus.”

UPD has repaved the lot located near the Hughes Fieldhouse. It is now asphalt but used to be a gravel lot.

Green said the cost of adding a parking garage is out of the budget and would force the University to raise the cost of parking permits.

“It’s a little around \$25,000 and \$30,000 per spot to construct it,” Green said. “The cost is just too much for our parking demand and truly our demand doesn’t support it. We do have some stranded areas such as Colden Hall, Fine Arts, Lamkin, but our demands do not really push that we need it.”

Northwest fosters diversity with Lavender Graduation

KEJI AKINMOLADUN
Chief Reporter | @OluwatoyinKeji

The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion will host its first Lavender Graduation event to celebrate the success of LGBTQ students.

Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator Adam Gonzales said this event is meant to be a time to highlight the LGBTQ community at Northwest.

“The Lavender Graduation is going in the spirit of multicultural celebration of student success,” Gonzales said. “We are going to do the Lavender Graduation which is focused on celebrating the achievements of our graduating LGBTQIA (intersex, asexual/ally) students.”

According to hrc.org, lavender is a significant color throughout the

history of the LGBTQ community. Gay men were forced to wear pink triangles in concentration camps while black triangles labeled lesbian women as political prisoners in Nazi Germany.

The combination of the pink and black triangles by LGBTQ civil rights activist made lavender. Lavender is supposed to represent community and pride.

The Lavender Graduation is open to all self-identifying LGBTQ students. There will be a dinner celebration 6 p.m. May 1, in the Union Ballroom. Graduating LGBTQ students are encouraged to invite their family, friends and significant others.

During the ceremony, these students will receive lavender stoles.

They have the option of wearing it during commencement.

Former President of HERO, senior Trip Carlson, said Lavender Graduation shows the community that they should be celebrated instead of tolerated.

“We’re molded to hide away queer identification, which is why coming out is taking your true self and putting yourself out there for the world to see,” Carlson said. “It’s really important to show that we should be celebrated, visible and welcomed and not just tolerated. Tolerance is a really low bar to put on a community that has gone through so much.”

Gonzales said the Lavender Graduation happens on other col-

lege campuses across the country and DEI decided to bring it to Northwest.

“It’s a way to acknowledge their achievements because, for a lot of LGBTQ people, there are some challenges they face that other student populations don’t,” Gonzales said. “We want to be able to honor them and have a moment they can celebrate with their significant others.”

The Lavender Graduation will happen every year and is offered in the fall semesters.

Gonzales said the Lavender Graduation will be positive and demonstrates a sense of belonging.

“It’s going to remind LGBTQ students that they belong and are welcomed here,” Gonzales said.

“I want us to be able to provide a space where they can be recognized even if they’re not fully out. This is going to be a ceremony where hopefully we can provide that space for them to say, ‘Hey, this is who I am, and I’m glad to be recognized.’”

Senior Arlondo Watson said this is a moment of recognition for students who may not get enough acknowledgment.

“This is a huge impact, especially if we take into consideration what is going on in society regarding the LGBTQ community,” Watson said. “They aren’t recognized. It’s nice that Northwest is taking advantage of this moment by recognizing all of those students.”

CATTLEMEN CONTINUED FROM A1

“A lot of producers that live on county lines struggle with trying to compromise with both counties because there is a certain amount of feet past county lines that due to the overlap anyone living there has to abide by both counties,” Lingle said.

The Cattlemen’s Association decided to present the bill the legislation.

“So rather than having to pick the stricter enforcement, the Missouri Cattlemen’s Association wants to present a bill in the Senate that takes away all individual county rights and make one state law,” Lingle said.

Louiselle said it is important to get the younger generation of Cattlemen involved with the laws and legislation because they are the ones who will eventually take over the organization.

“The Cattlemen’s organization is the voice in legislation that (farmers) don’t have or don’t care to have,” Louiselle said. “The Cattlemen’s is the bridge between legislators, higher powers and people that we can’t directly talk to as producers. It gives us the ability to have a say in what happens with bills, laws, legislation and so many different things that we would not normally have the ability to do.”

The Collegiate Cattlemen’s Association officially became a campus organization Tuesday after Student Senate took a vote on the organization.



MADI NOLTE | NW MISSOURIAN
Ashlynn Lingle, Kaitlin Arnold, Garrett Louiselle and Abigail Oelrichs gather for a photo in the state Capitol Feb. 27, in Jefferson City.

Police blotters for the week of March. 7

Maryville Public Safety Feb. 20

A summons was issued to **Christopher Holder**, 22, for failure to register a motor vehicle, failure to maintain financial responsibility and failure to obey a posted stop sign at the 500 block of West Torrance Street.

A summons was issued to **Alexander Thompson**, 19, for possession of drug paraphernalia at the 500 block of West Torrance Street.

Feb. 21
A firearm was recovered at the 200 block of West Twelfth Street.

Feb. 22
A summons was issued to **Alejuandro Pazmino-Lopez**, 26, for driving while intoxicated at the 200 block of West Second Street.

Feb. 24

A summons was issued **Kelsey Wilkinson**, 21, for possession of drug paraphernalia at the 1100 block of North Walnut Street.

A summons was issued to **Paige Burnett**, 20, for possession of drug paraphernalia at the 1100 block of North Walnut Street.

A summons was issued to **Rachel Wilkinson** for possession of drug paraphernalia at the 1100 block of North Walnut Street.

There is an ongoing investigation for disorderly conduct at the 400 block of East First Street.

Feb. 28
A summons was issued to **Allen Hollis**, 22, for wanted on warrant and failure to appear at the 400 block of North Market Street.

March 2
A summons was issued to **Sidney Brastad**, 18, for minor in possession, possession of a

fake I.D. and being under 19 in a bar at the 300 block of North Market Street.

Northwest Missouri State University Police Department

Feb. 28
There is an ongoing investigation for stealing at the Foster Fitness Center.

March 1
A summons was issued to **Leah Bruce**, 19, for possession of marijuana at South Complex.

There is an ongoing investigation for relationship violence at the J.W. Jones Student Union.

March 2
There is an ongoing investigation for sexual assault at Franken Hall.

March 5
There is an ongoing investigation for stealing an automobile-scooter at an unknown location.

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The History of St. Patricks Day

The color of St. Patrick’s Day was originally blue.

Wearing green has become a staple of St. Patrick’s Day, but the holiday was originally associated with the color blue. It’s thought that the shift to green happened because of Ireland’s nickname “The Emerald Isle,” the green in the Irish flag and the shamrock, or clover. Green ribbons and shamrocks were worn as early as the 17th century.



SUDOKU

By MetroCreative

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HOROSCOPE

By MetroCreative

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, there’s always ample opportunity to learn from past mistakes. You can make amends for previous miscues this week when you’re re-united with someone from the past.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Others seem to be feeding you information on a need-to-know basis. This may be frustrating, Taurus. But a little extra patience is required for the time being.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, the need to delegate will present itself throughout the week. Don’t take on more than you can handle. Trust that those around you are up to the task.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
The image that you project can be much more important than the work you actually do, Cancer. Have a good public relations team in your corner.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
The good will you demonstrate will come around in time, Leo. Continue to be generous and help others whenever possible. Karma is on your side.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
It is not easy to admit when you are wrong, Virgo. When the need to do so arises, be gracious and offer your apologies in a heartfelt way that will resonate with others.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, support is a two-way street. If you boost the confidence of a friend or loved one, in return he or she may help you in big ways. Work as a team to foster communication.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Take a step back from the rush and pressure that has surrounded you lately, Scorpio. You can use the rest to clear your mind. This break will help you tackle new things.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, you may be eager to step into a new job right when another is finished. While this can be good for productivity, make sure you avoid burnout.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, sometimes you are acutely aware of details that others readily miss. This trait comes in handy when you are asked to advise others.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
It is important to be self-aware of the way you communicate with others, Aquarius. Pushing too hard might shut some people off. Adjust your approach accordingly.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Psychic feelings are pronounced this week, Pisces. Try to hone in on what these sensations are attempting to tell you.

CROSSWORD

By MetroCreative

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Public broadcaster
- 4. The media
- 9. Manila hemp
- 14. Not just “play”
- 15. Trailblazing German historian
- 16. Type of puzzle
- 17. Plant in the daisy family
- 18. Not young
- 20. Dennis is one
- 22. Revealed
- 23. But goodie
- 24. Absurd
- 28. Commercials
- 29. University of Dayton
- 30. Expression of annoyance
- 31. Stories
- 33. More critical
- 37. Of I
- 38. Time units (abbr.)
- 39. Arousing intense feeling
- 41. High schoolers’ test
- 42. Trauma center
- 43. Astronomical period
- 44. Fights
- 46. Italian Lake
- 49. Rhenium
- 50. Baseball stat
- 51. State of consciousness
- 55. Some is dietary
- 58. Stringed instrument
- 59. __ Kidman, actress
- 60. Orator
- 64. Ottoman military commander
- 65. Makes known
- 66. Type of font
- 67. Cool!
- 68. Short musical composition
- 69. Porticos
- 70. Not wet

CLUES DOWN

- 1. The upper part of a duet
- 2. Carpenter’s tool
- 3. Outrageous events
- 4. Procedures

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
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			58							59				
60	61							62	63				64	
65								66					67	
68								69					70	

- 5. Type of party
- 6. Between northeast and east
- 7. Sanskrit (abbr.)
- 8. NJ college __ Hall
- 9. Sharp mountain ridge
- 10. Observed something remarkable
- 11. One who obeys
- 12. __ de sac
- 13. Sign language
- 19. Predecessor to Protestantism
- 21. Right-hand man
- 24. __ anglicus: sweating sickness
- 25. People who proof
- 26. Israeli Defence Forces sergeant
- 27. Remains as is
- 31. Receptacle
- 32. Archers’ tool
- 34. Gets up
- 35. Unit of energy

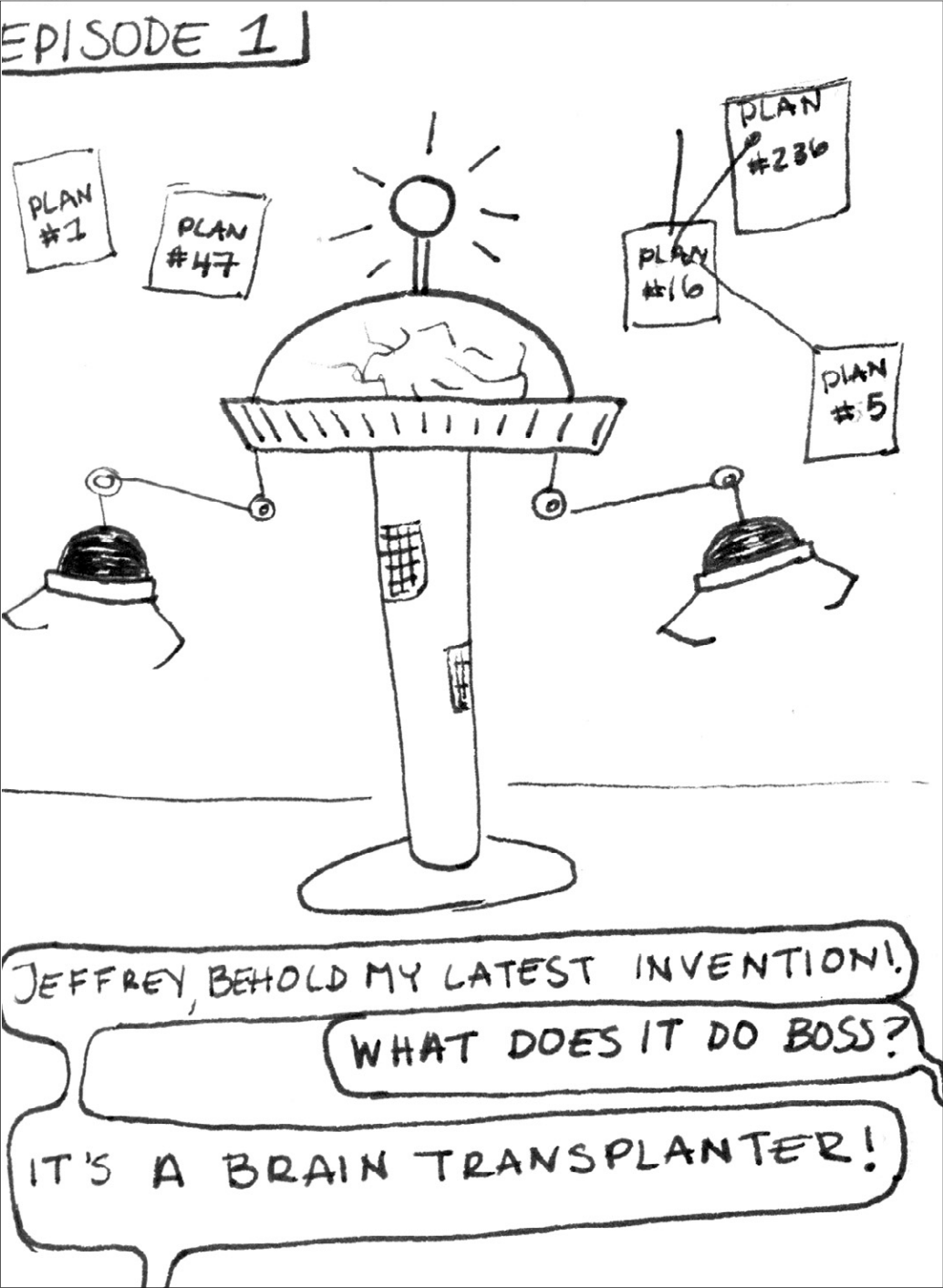
- 36. Explains again
- 40. Pa’s partner
- 41. Region bordering the sea
- 45. Type of acid
- 47. Lesotho capital
- 48. Gave a speech
- 52. Irregular as though nibbled away
- 53. Neither
- 54. Copyreads
- 56. Edward __, British composer
- 57. Prepared
- 59. Launched Apollo
- 60. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 61. Protects from weather
- 62. Feline
- 63. Equal

Last Week’s Solutions

B	A	Z	A	R			V	A	S		S	A	C	K
O	R	A	C	H		D	A	B	A		A	B	O	R
S	C	A	R		A	I	R	E	D		M	I	L	O
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			S	U	I	T	S		F	U	R		C	E
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E	S	T	E		A	C	E	S		A	K	A	N	S
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7	9	6	4	8	5	3	2	1
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9	7	8	6	2	4	5	1	3
2	4	1	9	5	3	8	7	6
3	6	5	8	7	1	2	4	9
5	2	4	1	9	8	6	3	7
6	1	9	5	3	7	4	8	2
8	3	7	2	4	6	1	9	5

The Adventures of Mr. Science and Jeffrey



LEAH BRUCE | NW MISSOURIAN



'Adam's Glow'

Staff member rises above circumstances

SARAH VON SEGGERN

Asst. A&E Editor | @SeggernSarah

Snuggled in the corner room of the Office of Student Involvement, a bright smile and the subtle smell of tea greets students as Coordinator of Diversity and Inclusion Adam Gonzales offers a listening ear to everybody, no matter race or sexual identity.

"I get to work with a very amazing, very incredible student population," Gonzales said. "I'm put in a position where I can reach out to these students and help them. Sometimes it's not that they need help, but that they need someone to cheer them on. I love being that cheerleader. I love being that person that can say, 'Hey let me pour you a cup of tea. How's your day going?'"

Gonzales was hired last August after deciding to move from Amarillo, Texas, to be closer to his family.

In Texas, he was heavily involved in advocating for the rights of the LG-BTQ community as a member of the Board of Directors for Equality Texas.

Even though Gonzales was familiar with Maryville, Missouri, since he had graduated from Conception Seminary College, it was still quite a transition. "It was new to me in the sense that I had never lived here," Gonzales said. "I had never lived and worked in Maryville. That was a new experience; being a person of Latin descent, of having my skin be a little darker than most people around here. There are things that make me stand out in a crowd in Maryville."

Originally, Gonzales aspired to be a priest and came to Conception Seminary College on the recommendation of a bishop. Eventually, he found that his passion didn't

necessarily lie in becoming a priest, but rather a genuine love for helping others in any way that he can.

"Looking back, it was never, 'I want to be a priest just to be a priest,'" Gonzales said. "It was 'I want to help people,' and that wasn't the place for me to do it. I don't regret it. I don't regret going; I don't regret joining the monastery. I mean those experiences really did help make me who I am."

While he didn't go on to fol-

and a friend, Paul Johnson was filling out his insurance policies and he remembered writing both his biological son and Gonzales as secondary beneficiaries.

"I remembered you had to have a relationship down, so I said 'Peter, Son,' and then for Adam, I had to write friend because that was the only category I had," Paul Johnson said. "I remember looking at that and thinking, 'That's just wrong. He's so much more than that.'"

While Paul Johnson was Gonzales' teacher, Carolyn Johnson met him when they had a poetry reading and dinner hosted at their house one night.

"I usually end the night by reading one more poem. It's always 'Goodnight Moon,'" Carolyn Johnson said. "I found Adam had just moved up close to me so he could see the pictures and he goes, 'Ah, this is so great, I've never been read to before.' And that just blew me away ... I just looked at him and I said, 'I'm going to have to adopt you.'"

Paul Johnson and Carolyn Johnson couldn't believe people wouldn't want to be around him. They said anybody who

talked and knew him had what they lovingly referred to as "Adam's glow."

Many people take for granted certain aspects of life that are usually guaranteed like parents who love and support them in all they do.

For Gonzales, he was burdened with the heavy decision of cutting off all ties with most of his biological family. When he came out to his birth mother and her husband, he was met with immediate disapproval. His mother didn't understand.

"They weren't real accepting," Gonzales said. "In their words, they disagreed with my lifestyle, as they put it. It's not a lifestyle; it's an identity. I can't change it. A lifestyle choice is what kind of curtain you put in your house, or what kind of car you drive or whether or not you go out and party. ... This isn't a choice. They actually cited religious reasons. They said they didn't really want anything to do with me."

When it came to Gonzales' biological father, it was difficult. From the time he was born, his dad was in prison. Around the time he began coming out to his friends, his father tried getting more involved in his life after being released.

It wasn't until his dad used a slur that Gonzales told him he was gay. After telling his father, he said if it was going to be a problem, they could go their separate ways. He was met with harassment and, by this point, he said his father wasn't someone he wanted in his life.

"I share that story because I want people to understand that even though they may perceive us as like, 'Oh, well, all we do is throw parades and parties ...' there is still a reality that many people face that is very challenging, very difficult," Gonzales said. "It's all because of who they are. It's not even about the choices they make; it's who they are. And that's enough for some people to discriminate against them, to hurt them."

Gonzales' childhood was painted with abuse and dark times, but through it, he was able to find comfort in the educational children's series "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood."

"I remember as a kid watching 'Mister Rogers' was like my safe place," Gonzales said. "I always loved the fact that there was this show that I could tune into where everyone was kind to each other. Everyone believed in each other. Everyone worked as a team. ... Maybe self-consciously that was ingrained in me."

There were two distinct episodes that really stuck out to Gon-



SUBMITTED

Coordinator of Diversity and Inclusion Adam Gonzales was adopted by Paul Johnson and Carolyn Johnson. Carolyn Johnson said he has inspired her to be more aware of what she says and does.

low priesthood, his time at college gave him more than just friends and new experiences; he was also given a true home and a loving family.

Professor of English and humanities at Conception Seminary College Paul Johnson and B.D. Owens librarian Carolyn Johnson adopted Gonzales as an adult, which simply meant they didn't need the consent of the biological parents.

Paul Johnson remembers exactly why and when he wanted to adopt Gonzales.

After many years of getting to know Gonzales, as both a student



SUBMITTED

Gonzales in South Africa on his study abroad trip.



MORGAN JONES | NW MISSOURIAN

Gonzales lives a very diverse life. He not only leads a career in academia, but also in the creative industry as a DJ.

zales.

These episodes fed into his other love: music. When he first saw a student breakdancing, he would try those same moves in front of the mirror at night.

The other episode featured a DJ, and this was his first time seeing a DJ mixing music on a turntable.

While music was allowed in his house, it just wasn't played that much. He actually won a mini-boom box in a contest at school, and it was through this that he was able to connect to hip-hop and rap.

"I would sit up at night in my closet and listen to that radio station. I remember it was called Z-93," Gonzales said. "I was just obsessed with all kinds of music, and so when I went to college the first time, I saved up my money, and I got like a mixing board. ... It was just fun. I love being able to play a song and then get people dancing."

There is only one particular song Gonzales absolutely can't stand.

"I don't like 'Feliz Navidad,'" Gonzales said. "In school, I was the only kid who spoke two languages, so I speak Spanish and English. When we would have our school pageants as kids, I would always be the one picked out to sing the Spanish parts, and I'm like, 'Ah, again.'"

Eventually, his love for music led him to teach himself how to DJ.

While he doesn't claim to be any "DJ Jazzy Jeff," he loves using

his DJing skills to play at various events like DEI's board game night.

Gonzales has loved working with students from all different backgrounds and was ecstatic when he got his dream job.

Complex Director of Hudson and Perrin Halls Brittany Stegeman met Gonzales during a student-staff training session after being introduced as the new coordinator of diversity and inclusion.

After noticing his rainbow-colored watch band his adopted brother had given him as a gift, Stegeman found kinship with Gonzales and their friendship blossomed from there.

"I think caring and empathetic is one aspect of who he is," Stegeman said. "Fun, energetic. Someone who knows how to bring the best out in others while not letting their own light be dimmed."

Gonzales' ultimate goal is to help people, whether that's through laughter, lending a caring shoulder or even just helping others understand each other a little bit more.

"Sometimes it (a bright future) can be difficult to see that down the road," Gonzales said. "But it's there. It's there if you go looking for it and if you go create it. Sometimes you've got to create it, and that takes some work. But I tell people, never let your past define where you're going to go."



Junior Emma Wiseman performed in her second Northwest Dance Company show. Despite the brief technical difficulty involving a blown breaker, which caused the lights and sound to quit working, the spring 2019 show was still a night to remember.

AMANDA WISTUBA | NW MISSOURIAN

THE STROLLER: Your Bearcat wants less tickets

The University Police Department’s entire ticketing system is a full blown scam.

The only place in Missouri you can get charged 50 bucks for acutely minor traffic violations is on this frozen hell of a campus—unless every other university in the state employs a bunch of snake oil salesmen wearing police uniforms.

Did I really roll through that four-way stop sign, or are they just paying you to say I did? It was 10:30 p.m. and dark as can be, and you were parked 40 yards away, so how, officer, do you really know if my tires stopped spinning or not?

I’d like to see how many tickets UPD gives out in one evening while they send some nondescript officer to a nondescript stop sign waiting for already-broke college students to make the slightest of violations.

How much money did the department make last week alone when handing out \$50 tickets to students clocked going 4 miles per hour over the ridiculous 20 mph speed limit? And why do you charge me \$30 every time the color of the \$90-sticker on my windshield doesn’t match the color designated for the parking lot?

I already pay thousands of dollars to go to school here, so why the hell do I have to pay another \$90 to park and another \$30 every time I park somewhere convenient?

Sometimes I think UPD is more focused on generating revenue for the school than it is on the best interests of the students.

But hey, at least Grocery Bingo was a success.

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.

Dance Company ends Spring season

CORIE HERTZOG

A&E Editor | @CoffeeGilmore97

As the lights began to dim, the crowd in the Ron Houston Theater cheered and erupted into applause March 1.

Viewers of all ages turned their eyes to the lit stage as two women walked to the center, microphones in hand. The 2019 Northwest Dance Company Show was about to begin.

The Dance Company, made up of 100 students, performed over a dozen dances, ranging from contemporary like “Happier” and “Black Magic Woman,” to hip hop like “Early 2000s Remix,” to musical theater.

Northwest Dance Company started in 2001 as a way for students who enjoyed dance, to share their passion and choreograph their own pieces.

Psychology senior AJ Hinson struggled to find a song to go with his musical theater number.

“My first go-to was ‘Candy Store’ from ‘Heathers: the Musi-

cal,’” Hinson said. “I chose out the music and edited it because it wasn’t the most appropriate, and so I made it sound appropriate. Then my president and vice president were like ‘Listen, as much as we love this, it’s not a kid-friendly number to choreograph to,’ so I sat down and listened to all the musicals that I like.”

Hinson chose the song “Nicest Kids In Town” from the musical “Hairspray.”

Dancers had the option to be involved in up to three dances for the show. Dancers are picked based on a variety of criteria including experience, preferred style of dance and what dance they want to be part of.

“The audition process was very interesting,” Hinson said. “It was my first semester experiencing it, so it was a little confusing at first. We go in and we watch the dancers in groups, and then we have a list of them. Then all the choreographers sit in a circle and talk about what people we’d like in our dance.

I wouldn’t say we fight over them, but we all compromise on what dancers we want in our dances.”

Criminology freshman Kevin Nguyen talked about his audition experience as a dancer.

“It’s a two-day process,” Nguyen said. “On the first day, we choose what style we want to be in and you start by learning your dances. So if you’re not in one of the first dances, you’re out in the hallway stretching.”

Nguyen performed in “Nicest Kids In Town.” His favorite style of dance offered in Northwest Dance Company is musical theater since he gets to “put on a character.”

Nguyen’s favorite type of dance, overall, is called poms. Poms is the style of dance often seen in cheerleading.

“It’s all sharp moves,” Nguyen said. “It’s a lot of high V’s, low V’s, touchdowns just like you see in cheer. You do toe touches like cheerleaders, but I think the biggest difference is it’s more jazzy

and everything flows together. You do turns and kicklines.”

Biopsychology sophomore Kylie Miller choreographed a hip-hop routine of 30 members to a remix of early 2000s songs.

“It’s challenging, especially with hip-hop, because I had close to 30 people in my dance,” Miller said. “However, it’s been a really fun experience. It’s really helped me grow tremendously in my creativity as a dancer and to gain better leadership skills.”

The show lasted from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and audience members had a chance to interact and send shoutouts to their friends on stage with the #GetGroovy2019 hashtag. Some tweets were read aloud and competitions were held by the show’s emcees, and former Dance Company members, Sydney Arnold and Elizabeth Brown.

Despite technical difficulties halfway through the performance, the Dance Company took on the motto “The show must go on.”



JUSANI JACKSON | NW MISSOURIAN

Bailey White presents her history day project March 1, in the J.W. Jones Student Union. Students gave presentations over various historical events to help inform others.

History day encourages competition in high school

PRIYANKA PATEL

Missourian Reporter | @Priyanka_xo_

Students in middle and high schools across Missouri competed in National History Day, March 1, at the J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom.

National History Day is a non-profit organization based in College Park, Maryland, operating an annual project-based contest for students in sixth through 12th grades.

This was part of a regional contest, where the top three in each category advances to the state contest, then to nationals which are being held this summer in Maryland.

Approximately 200 students from St. Joseph, North Nodaway, King City and North Andrew participated in over 10 categories including papers, exhibits, websites,

documentaries and performances, focusing on the historical theme of triumph and tragedy.

High school student Angela Gastineau from North Nodaway spoke about the inspirations behind her exhibit.

“As I’m really into the medical field, I decided to incorporate tragedy by using the American Civil War and spoke about Clara Barton, who founded the Red Cross which we still have today,” Gastineau said. “It’s an everlasting triumph in my eyes, so I saw that as a good opportunity to push something that the judges haven’t seen before.”

Around the room, students could see each other’s work and be inspired by how they used the theme in different ways.

Gastineau said she was glad to learn about the importance of National History Day.

“National History Day actually brings out creativity, and you learn in a unique way, rather than sitting in a classroom,” Gastineau said. “By looking at all the other exhibits, it increased my knowledge and allowed me to learn new things.”

Madison Haynes, a social science college senior, was one of the judges for the event.

“I judged the Junior Group Exhibit category, and it was more difficult than I originally anticipated, as the students really impressed me with their projects,” Haynes said.

**FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM**

Students discuss influential women, cultural impacts

ANGEL TRINH

A&E Reporter | @acuteanglewrite

Students and staff discussed influential women of various cultures during the March session of First Friday Culture Talks in the International Involvement Center in B.D. Owens Library.

A small group of students from Nepal and Curacao spoke with IIC staff about women who they look up to in both their home countries and in the U.S. The discussion centered around women, helping kick off Women’s History Month.

Sophomore Dipika Sharma from Nepal couldn’t pinpoint just one woman who impacted her life.

“I always looked up to all women that were in my life,” Sharma said. “One way or another, they were just building me up, and I just feel like everyone was influential to me.”

Abha Niraula, a junior from Nepal, spoke about 2012 CNN Hero of the Year Pushpa Basnet. She built a place to raise children who would otherwise be living in jail with their imprisoned parents.

“She went on a trip to a prison once,” Niraula said. “She saw these kids growing up (without) the privileges kids outside had. She wanted to take care of them. So after she graduated, she went back, and that’s what she devoted her time to. Now she lives in a house with a bunch of kids and she raises them. It’s really cool.”

When the discussion turned to female figures in the U.S., students mentioned New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. Niraula admires her actions as a young congresswoman, being 29 years old.

“I just love how vocal she is about everything,” Sharma said. “(She’s) so inspiring.”

International Student and Scholar Services Coordinator Ashley Henggeler turned the discussion to women’s roles when she asked how women’s roles have changed.

Niraula responded by saying women’s roles have greatly changed from when women only stayed at home and took care of the house.

“I think now a lot of women work,” Niraula said. “I think social roles are definitely changing. We’re not completely there yet, but I think women are encouraged to go out and work now more than before.”

Graduate student Arpana Pokhrel shared her observations of women’s roles on campus.

“Just looking at our University, I feel like more women are in (student) leadership roles than men,” Pokhrel said.

Other women that came up in the conversation were two speakers that spoke on campus last semester, Tarana Burke and Julissa Arce. They addressed sexual assault and immigration reform.

“I think this time now is just very empowering because more women are speaking up about injustices,” Henggeler said.

Niraula added that some don’t recognize injustices women face. She said talking to her friends about being touched inappropriately by a stranger in a public place was so common it didn’t always process as a problem.

**FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM**

Softball heads south for MIAA opener

TUCKER FRANKLIN

Assistant Sports Editor | @thereal_tuckerf

Northwest softball will embark on a 395-mile journey to Edmond, Oklahoma, to take on Central Oklahoma to open up a fresh slate of conference games.



The Bearcats (3-5) are set to take on the Bronchos (16-1) March 7-8 at the all-turf Broncho Softball Stadium. Coach Ryan Anderson said with the cancellations and distractions of the non-conference schedule, his team feels a little different than normal.

“(We feel) a little lost,” Anderson said. “We’ve had 12 games canceled, and that’s 12 learning curves going into the first week of conference. Central Oklahoma has 18 games in right now—we have eight.”

Northwest is faced with a tough task out of the gates as Central Oklahoma sits atop the MIAA standings before conference play. Not only that, the Bronchos have played the most total games (17) in the conference while the ‘Cats have played the second least (8).

With such a large experience gap this year, junior infielder Kaitlyn Weis said the team needs to focus on what it can control in this first series and not try to do too much.

“We’re just making sure we stay focused and stay within ourselves,” Weis said. “We obviously don’t want them to get in our minds. We’re just staying on top of what we need to do and control what we can control.”

A fresh slate a game sits ahead



MADI NOLTE | NW MISSOURIAN

Junior Erin Keeney started all 46 games last season. As a returning starter Keeney has already recorded three hits and two runs on the season.

of Northwest this year, as every team will start conference play 0-0. Anderson said he is taking that attitude into the first games in Edmond.

“It’s a new season,” Anderson said. “We have the early part of the season to get ready for conference, to see how people fit in situations and those types of things, and we missed a lot of that. So now we have to speed up the learning curve. Hopefully, we are ready to go.”

The Bearcats were fortunate enough to play two games March 1 in Joplin, as Days 2 and 3 of the tournament—like the majority of the others Northwest has participated in—were canceled due to weather.

In its first action in 12 days, Northwest faced a heavy-hitting Cameron team. The ‘Cats were able to jump out to a quick 2-0 lead in the first, but the Aggies surged to take the lead in the fourth. Northwest was able to tie the game going into the sixth inning, but Cam-

eron scored six in the final inning and took the win 9-3.

This marks the fourth time the Bearcats have allowed a comeback win in the sixth inning or later. Anderson said he wasn’t sure what happens to his team in the late innings.

“Who knows?” Anderson said. “(Cameron) is a team who has played 17 games. We actually had to come back to tie it. We fought back and tied it in the sixth but they were a good hitting team.”

Weis went 1-for-2 against the Aggies, adding two runs and two RBIs to her already hot start for Northwest. She explained she thinks the reason these late-game collapses happen is because of complacency.

“I think we settle a little bit,” Weis said. “Once we get them down, we’ve got to keep them down and keep that positive energy up. Sometimes you just get comfortable with where you’re at, and there are seven innings, so anything

can happen in that seven innings.”

The Bearcats committed four errors in the game against Cameron, two coming in the final two innings, a mark that Anderson showed displeasure with.

“We did make some mistakes, especially in the seventh inning,” Anderson said. “We had two errors that inning that hurt us, you know, we helped them out.”

With cancellations littering Northwest’s schedule, errors and mistakes can be expected as its only taken the field for eight games.

Weis said the errors are a part of the game, and they have to move on and help each other.

“There’s going to be errors and mistakes that happen,” Weis said. “We just have to make sure we fight through it and pick each other up.”

Game 2 presented a different storyline for the ‘Cats as they hung 13 runs on the board against Rockhurst, beating the Hawks 13-4 in their final game in Joplin.

UP NEXT

**Northwest @
Central Oklahoma**
March 7-8
Edmond, Okla.

Senior outfielder Jaedra Moses went 3-for-3 at the dish, driving in two runs and scoring three of her own. While sophomore pitcher Regan Thompson went the distance, striking out six batters while allowing just four runs. Weis explained it was nice to see her club produce runs like she knew they could.

“It was very refreshing,” Weis said. “We were very fresh, so that was pretty good. Just getting back and getting comfortable with ourselves and staying within ourselves is pretty important when you have a big break.”



AMANDA WISTUBA | NW MISSOURIAN

Freshman guard Trevor Hudgins became the sixth Bearcat to win MIAA Freshman of the Year March 5, after averaging 18.4 points per game in his first collegiate season.

BASKETBALL

CONTINUED FROM A12

Despite the Bearcats bringing home most of the MIAA’s top honors, and despite just wrapping up a perfect regular season, Northwest’s focus remains on what’s next.

“Coach Mac always preaches, ‘We can always get better,’” Witthus said. “There’s always something we can get better at. There’s no settling for anything. There’s always just room for improvement; so that’s what we do at practice each and every day.”

Witthus, who transferred to Northwest from Minnesota State after the 2016-17 season, has been a focal point of Northwest’s offense this year, leading them in scoring more often than not.

“Did we need Joey to get buckets then? Yeah,” McCollum said of the regular season. “Do we need him to get them now? Yeah. We like those all the time.”

After sweeping their way through the MIAA’s regular season gantlet and sweeping the conference’s award in the process, the Bearcats head into the postseason with lofty expectations. They’re the only undefeated team in the country, and opponents have played up

to them throughout the season and for most of the last half-decade.

Touting the conference’s highest honors, an unblemished record and the nation’s longest win streak, one might expect a certain degree of pressure to surround Northwest.

“I mean, we’ve been what? No. 5 in the country (after) losing four starters and we’ve taken everybody’s best shot all season long,” McCollum said. “And Diego (Bernard) and Trevor are expected to replace Justin Pitts, and the other guys are expected to be leaders and carry on all this tradition ... Then you’ve got an opportunity to go 19-0 and 20-whatever-and-0 we are.”

McCollum said that for the Bearcats, the pressure is the norm. It’s what they’ve faced all year.

“We’ve faced enough pressure that if pressure, at this point, affects us, we’ve got bigger problems,” McCollum said. “I think we should be OK in regards to pressure.”

UP NEXT

Northwest vs Emporia State
12 p.m. March 7
Municipal Auditorium



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Transfer off to quick start

TRENT SPINNER

Chief Sports Reporter | @trentspinner

As last year’s recruiting season began, coach Darin Loe searched his collection of profiles thoroughly to find the right fit for his offense. In his portfolios, Loe had a number of community colleges that he showed preference to when he hit the recruiting trail.

North Central Missouri College, located in Trenton, Missouri, was just another one of those schools. The Pirates have produced former and current Bearcats from 2017 ace Anthony Caenepeel to outfielder Derek Hussey.

So as Loe opened up his book of preferences, he stumbled across a video of a high-powered offensive weapon that strived on his ability to get on base. Immediately, Loe found what he had been looking for in a first baseman when he happened upon the video of now junior Connor Quick.

Now a year after his discovery, Quick is making waves and filling the hole that was left in the middle of the lineup after the program graduated its latest senior class. Quick’s story is headlined by hard work and determination put into motion by the luck of Loe finding his college tapes.

Quick’s story began a little later than normal stories, as he started his adventure in baseball at the elementary school level. During an age where children begin finding childhood romances, he found love in the form of baseball.

“My whole family is all about baseball. I have an older brother that played baseball his whole life,



RYAN GRIESINGER | (PHOTO COURTESY OF NORTHWEST ATHLETICS)

so it’s kind of just a given that I play baseball,” Quick said. “Especially being from St. Louis which is such a big baseball city.”

As a student of the game, he began his quest for something special in his high school years. Baseball came easily to him; it was something that was natural. He lived and breathed baseball and succeeded with it as he was named to the first team all-district at Rockwood Sum-

mit High School.

His success on the diamond in Fenton, Missouri, only pushed him toward a new setting at North Central. There, he impressed and dominated opposing coaches while putting together a jaw-dropping sophomore year for the Pirates. During his 53 games, he compiled a .458 batting average, and to add to the wow factor, he provided 47 RBIs.

“He’s always been a great hitter,

and that’s why we recruited him,” Loe said. “We felt like he was a guy that could hit in the middle of our lineup, just a guy that has a great eye for the strike zone and knows the pitch he wants. When he gets the pitch he wants, then he’s got such great hands, that allows him to have a short compact swing.”

**FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM**

Bearcats ready for opening stretch

JACOB COOK

Missourian Reporter | @jacobcook16

The Northwest golf team is looking to add on from the fall season after finishing 10th in the Central Region Preview, as well as 8th overall in the conference for last year.

The Bearcats traveled to Muskogee, Oklahoma, to take part in the NCAA Division II Central Region Preview to start the spring season. Taking part in this tournament helps the teams involved, as it will be the course that the NCAA Regional Championship will be held this spring.

Northwest started the fall season with sophomore Anna Zech in the top-20 of the tournament. Zech is one of Northwest’s top golfers, and she finished 19th at the tourney after shooting 153 in the two-day tournament.

Coach Andy Peterson spoke about how he expects his team to play during the spring season after competing in the fall tournament.

“We just don’t have the swings in yet and confidence that comes with it,” Peterson said. “It’s going to be a very mental spring for us to stay locked in and in the moment of competing.”

Peterson is helping his team get prepared for the spring season while trying to manage another job away from being the head coach. Peterson took over the Athletic Director position April 2018 after Mel Tjeerdsma retired.

Peterson said this is a major role for him, as he has another big responsibility being the girl’s golf coach.

“I was very honest with them about my goals, and they’ve supported me and this journey from the start,” Peterson said. “It would be very hard to be an athlete and do what they do without a coach there at every practice and workout, but they act like professionals and have handled it.”

Having two seasons is almost like playing golf year-round. You are either playing competitively or you are practicing for the next season. With being able to play during both the fall and the spring, college teams are able to keep its game going and not have a true “off-season.”

Teams like Northwest are able to see how they compete in the fall and make adjustments to how they handle the spring season. Peterson said having a fall season is beneficial to every college team.

“At that time of the year, the women are at the top of their games after playing all spring, summer, and fall, so they are clicking,” Peterson said.

**FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM**

Baseball sweeps Oklahoma series

TRENT SPINNER

Chief Sports Reporter | @trentspinner

The defending MIAA champions faced off against their co-champion counterparts in a battle that left Northwest baseball disappointed.



Central Oklahoma (10-5, 3-3 MIAA) and the Bearcats (6-10, 2-3 MIAA) took to the field this weekend for the first time since sharing the conference championship, and in that, the Bronchos showcased their talents.

When Northwest traveled to Edmond, Oklahoma, to go against the co-champions of the MIAA last year, they hoped for a chance to claim the title of best in the conference. Central Oklahoma had no intention of allowing the Bearcats to claim that title as it dominated the three-game series.

While the pitching staff may have found momentum, the defense faltered and the offensive strengths fell through. After the first day being a doubleheader, Central Oklahoma took game one (10-0) and two (3-1) with ease. The third game only followed the trend, forcing a rough series ender (7-0) and a disappointing ride home.

“There is such parity in the MIAA, if you are a little off then it’s going to be a long weekend for you,” coach Darin Loe said. “We were just a little off that day... we had a doubleheader that day and got beat twice, and then the third

UP NEXT
Northwest @ Southwest Baptist
March 7-8
Bolivar

day we couldn’t get anything going either.”

For Northwest, it has been tough to initiate a connection between the three elements of the game for an entire series.

“We are working hard to put all three aspects of the game together each day at practice,” senior catcher Jay Hrdlicka said. “Once the pitching, hitting and defense really start to click and everybody takes care of their role, we will be a difficult team to beat.”

Even with an unfavorable start to the season, progress has been evident as the pitching staff is starting to find its identity.

During the series, the Northwest pitching staff allowed just 13 earned runs on the 20 runs scored. Along with that, the starting pitching staff allowed a little over three runs each game with an average of at least five innings pitched.

Those numbers aren’t exactly Cy Young levels but show improvement to a staff that has allowed around seven runs per game.

**FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM**



FILE PHOTO | NW MISSOURIAN

Senior shortstop Logan Rycraft has proved to be a solid defender for Northwest, touting a .908 fielding percentage on the season.

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NORTHWEST MEN'S BASKETBALL				
2019 MIAA Men's Basketball Tournament				
No. 1 NORTHWEST				
March 7 @ Noon				
No. 8 Emporia St.	March 9 Noon	March 10 1 p.m.		
No. 4 Fort Hays St.				
March 8 @ Noon				
No. 5 Lincoln				
No. 3 Missouri Southern				
March 7 @ 2:15 p.m.				
No. 6 Pittsburg State	March 9 2:15 p.m.	MIAA CHAMPION		
No. 2 Washburn				
March 8 @ 2:15 p.m.				
No. 10 Southwest Baptist				
*All games held at Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City				

NW BASEBALL	
MIAA Standings	
Overall MIAA	
Central Missouri.....	11-5 5-1
Missouri Western.....	7-6 5-1
Missouri Southern.....	11-6 4-2
Southwest Baptist.....	9-6 4-2
Emporia State.....	6-6 4-2
Washburn.....	8-7 3-2
Central Oklahoma.....	9-5 2-3
Pittsburg State.....	8-7 2-3
NORTHWEST.....	6-9 2-4
Lindenwood.....	6-10 2-3
Northeastern State.....	2-15 1-5
Fort Hays State.....	0-14 0-6

NW SOFTBALL	
MIAA Standings	
Overall	
Central Oklahoma.....	16-1
Lindenwood.....	6-2
Fort Hays State.....	7-4
Missouri Western.....	10-7
Central Missouri.....	8-6
Northeastern State.....	8-9
Pittsburg State.....	7-8
Missouri Southern.....	4-5
Washburn.....	7-9
NORTHWEST.....	3-5
Emporia State.....	2-9
Nebraska Kearney.....	1-6
Lincoln.....	1-9
Southwest Baptist.....	1-12

Track and field sends seven to nationals



Junior Karim Achengli is one of seven athletes competing for Northwest at the NCAA Indoor Championships. Achengli qualified for the 5,000-meter run and is ranked 12th for the meet.

ANDREW WEGLEY
Sports Editor | @andrew_wegley21



Northwest indoor track and field will send seven athletes to Pittsburg, Kan., for the NCAA Division II Indoor Championships March 8-9 on the heels of one of the most successful MIAA meets in recent history.

Competing in their own backyard at Hughes Fieldhouse Feb. 22-24 for the MIAA Championships, the Bearcats surprised much of the conference with a second-place finish for the men's team and a sixth-place finish for the women.

Now, seven standouts will turn their attention to the national meet. The group, which includes five members of the men's team and two of the women's squad, is highlighted by freshman sprinter Omar Austin and senior athlete Kevin Schultz.

"We're prepared," coach Brandon Masters said. "The men are going to score a lot of points. I'm excited to see where we end up."

In the week leading up to nationals, the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association named Austin the Central Region Indoor Track Athlete of the Year, while Schultz won the region's Field Athlete of the Year award.

The duo fared well at the MIAA Championships, where Schultz won the men's high jump, men's heptathlon and was a part of the men's first-place 4-x-400 relay team. Schultz will compete in all three events at nationals.

Austin, who anchored the men's 4-x-400 all season, will compete in the relay as well as the men's 200-meter and 400-meter races.

"It's not common that you see that happen," Masters said of the Schultz and Austin sweeping the USTFCCA awards. "It's a big award. We have a very powerful region, one of the best conferences in the country... it's pretty amazing. The boys have done well. They deserved it."

Along with Schultz and Austin, juniors Marcus Klein and Karim

UP NEXT

NCAA DII Indoor Nationals
March 8-9
Pittsburg, Kan.

Achengli and sophomore Caelon Harkey will represent the men's team at nationals. Klein will run the first leg in the 4-x-400 relay and participate in the long jump, while Achengli will run the 5,000-meter race. Harkey will run the second leg of the men's 4-x-400 relay.

On the women's team, junior Mercedes Isaacson-Cover will compete in the triple jump and long jump while junior Jordan Hammond will compete in the pentathlon and 60-meter hurdles.

For Schultz, this trip to nationals will represent the last chance to compete in indoor track at the collegiate level. For Austin, this meet is, in some ways, just the beginning.

"I feel like this is just the start of my freshman year," Austin said. "I still got nationals; I can see what I can do there. I still got outdoor season. I feel like outdoor season is going to be the best season; that's when you (should) make sure y'all look at me. Outdoor season is where I'm going to really turn up."

Austin, who holds the ninth-fastest 400-meter time in Division II history at 46.49, said this indoor season has just been a preview into his capabilities.

"I feel like this is a great start freshman year," Austin said. "I feel like by the end of my senior year I should be in the Olympics for sure."

As the seven athletes wrap up Northwest's indoor season, Masters said the group is completely focused on results. Time and splits, Masters said, don't matter in the final meet of the year, just the team's ability to compete.

"The biggest expectation is to compete well and finish better than (each) ranking," Masters said. "Nothing matters other than places at this point. This is the end. This is the championship."

Bearcats weather dreary weekend

GEORDON GUMM
Missourian Reporter | @geordon97gumm

Northwest tennis is coming off of a pair of tough losses against two nationally ranked opponents in Springfield, Missouri, March 1-2. The Bearcats' trip was unsuccessful, as they were swept in three of the four duals played.

The men's team dropped both duals with a score of 7-0 against No. 22 Drury and No. 9 Indianapolis, while the women lost to Drury 5-2 and 7-0 to No. 1 Indianapolis.

Coach Mark Rosewell did not shy away from the team's poor outing but also found areas to improve upon in the team's struggles.

"Unfortunately, we were not very successful this weekend," Rosewell said. "The good thing is we have an opportunity to fix things, being this early in the season. You also need to keep in mind that both of those programs are very successful and well coached."

Rosewell mentioned the prestige of both programs and how they presented a challenge going into the weekend.

"There really is not much to it, we just got our tails kicked,"

UP NEXT

**Northwest vs
Oklahoma Baptist**

10 a.m. March 8
Maryville

Northwest vs Newman

11 a.m. March 9
Maryville

Rosewell said. "Those are some tough teams to play this early in the year, considering three of them were ranked nationally among Division II coming into the duals."

These duals reflect what Northwest is trying to change about their culture this spring by gaining experience through their play. Both programs have competed in at least six more duals so far this season. It appears the Bearcats may still be attempting to shake off some rust from the offseason having only played in three duals at this point in the year.

With a loaded schedule approaching Northwest, there is no time to waste.

Rosewell said he still feels his teams have plenty of room to grow



FILE PHOTO | NW MISSOURIAN

Freshman Julia Aliseda defeated Maryville University opponent Georgina Cupper 6-3 and 6-1 Feb. 22, in Red Oak, Iowa.

with the season just starting. He emphasized the importance of his players taking those losses and growing from them. With just two seniors on the men's team and none on the women's, there is a lack of experience as a result.

"We are still a very young team that is a majority of underclassmen," Rosewell said. "Being young

is not a negative; it just gives you more opportunities to learn from those mistakes and correct them."

Rosewell believes his team is headed in the right direction. There is some work that needs to be done, but Rosewell has been pleased with the strides the athletes have taken since last season.

"The best way to gain experi-

ence is the amount of time you put in," Rosewell said. "It is those little things, just continuing to get different looks or practicing a certain point of your game to improve upon."

The Bearcats will look to gain that experience throughout the season and keep building upon their mistakes to better prepare themselves for a shot at the postseason.

Women end painful season with road triumph

TUCKER QUINN
Chief Reporter | @Tuck_Quinn

After closing out the 2018-19 campaign with a win over MIAA conference-rival Washburn, Northwest women's basketball enters the offseason on a high note with the goal of improvement.

Entering the matchup with the Bearcats (8-20, 4-15 MIAA) Feb. 28, Washburn came in at No. 4 in the conference standings, hoping to enter the MIAA tournament with a win over Northwest.

The Bearcats surged early, jumping out to a 13-0 lead over the Ichabods, finishing the first quarter with a commanding 16-4

lead. Scoring another 16 points in the second quarter, Northwest held a 32-21 lead going into the half.

As the possession arrow faced Washburn to begin the second half, the Ichabods came out of the locker room and began to claw back at the Bearcats' lead, and at the end of the third, Northwest held a miniscule two-point lead, 49-47.

During the fourth quarter, the Bearcats were helped by sophomore guard Mallory McConkey, who led the team with a career-high 23 points on 8-of-10 shooting. McConkey nailed the go-ahead shot off the glass with 38 seconds remaining to win the game 72-70.

"We have struggled with confidence at times and making our

shots, so when we can go into their place and win a game, it turns into a confidence booster," coach Austin Meyer said. "Hopefully, we can carry it through the offseason and into next year."

With the victory ending the regular season, Northwest snapped a 10-game losing streak while also erasing a winning-drought stretching 16 games in Topeka, Kansas, dating back to 1985.

Other notable standouts for Northwest included junior guard Kendey Eaton, who scored 20 points. Eaton went 2-for-2 from the charity stripe to increase her free throw percentage to 93.5, a new individual season record for Northwest. Sophomore guard Kylie Cole-

man also contributed 10.

The Bearcats finished the game against Washburn shooting 11-of-12 from the free throw line, solidifying Northwest in the No. 1 overall spot in free throw percentage as a team in Division II women's basketball. Northwest averaged 80.9 percent on the season.

For seniors Mallory McAndrews, Kaylani Maiava and Maria Dentlinger, closing the yearbook as Bearcats with a triumph over a notable Washburn squad helped boost the program's morale into the future.

"In the locker room at halftime, Meyer reminded us that we had nothing to lose, but that we still had the opportunity to end on a great note

and better the program," McAndrews said. "In the second half, we played together, had confidence and just enjoyed the game we love."

Looking forward, Northwest looks to improve fundamentals during offseason workouts and be ready to compete in the gantlet that is the MIAA during the 2019-20 season. Meyer has made an effort to bring in signees to be a part of the next chapter of the women's basketball program with success in mind.

"We are going to bring in a lot of new kids to add to the talented athletes already on our roster," Meyer said. "I am extremely excited to move forward and think about the future of this program."



Freshman guard Diego Bernard earned a spot on the MIAA All-Defensive team and is averaging 5.1 rebounds per game in conference play.

AMANDA WISTUBA | NW MISSOURIAN

NO PRESSURE

‘Cats enter conference tourney on heels of MIAA sweep

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After fighting its way to a perfect regular season, Northwest men’s basketball is entering a different realm of play.



The Bearcats (29-0, 19-0 MIAA), ranked No. 1 in the nation, will ride the top seed into the MIAA tournament with their regular season accomplishments in the rearview. The seeding has afforded Northwest an immediate trip to the quarterfinals, where the team will square off against Emporia State.

What Northwest accomplished over its stretch of 29 consecutive wins is nothing short of remarkable. The Bearcats played in just five games decided by single-digits and ended their season with an average margin of victory of 22.4 points per game while building the nation’s best record.

But for Northwest, none of that matters as the team begins its postseason slate. The Bearcats fully intend to win the MIAA tournament—even though they’ll likely host the central region in the NCAA Division II tournament regardless—so much so that coach Ben McCollum dismissed the thought of using the early rounds of the MIAA slate to rest his players.

“It’s postseason: you’ve got to win the game,” McCollum said. “(In the) first game, if we’ve got to play who we’ve got to play for 40 minutes, then that’s what they’re going to do. (Northwest’s players) are just going to have to man-up through it (and) be a little bit tired. We’ll be alright.”

With the start of postseason play comes an entirely different atmosphere and schedule for the

Bearcats, and with those, an increased focus on winning. Northwest’s first matchup will take place at noon Feb. 7, under the bright lights at Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, Missouri.

For Northwest, though, the nontraditional tip-off time is where the differences stop. The Bearcats plan to attack the game with the same energy and preparation that has already yielded 29 wins this season.

“We put so much emphasis on each game and being ready and be-

“We’ve faced enough pressure that if pressure, at this point, affects us, we’ve got bigger problems.”

-Coach Ben McCollum

ing consistent that it doesn’t change for us,” McCollum said. “We’ll be just as ready as we always are.”

The Bearcats won’t prepare any differently for their imminent run through the MIAA tournament, nor will they kick their play into some higher form. Instead, the team plans on doing what it’s been doing.

McCollum said the most effective way to prepare for postseason play is to just play well throughout.

“Having a good preseason, early-season, mid-season and towards the end of the season, is kind of my thoughts,” McCollum said. “If you try to now prepare and try to get yourself to where you can be ready every day, it’s impossible. I think the reason you’re ready every single day is for those tournament set-

UP NEXT

Northwest vs Emporia State
12 p.m. March 7
Municipal Auditorium

tings where you have to be ready and you have to win games.”

The Bearcats’ consistency has brought them to where they are now.

Northwest has racked up its numerous accomplishments despite possessing a starting lineup with four new starters, including two freshman guards. Northwest added another round of accolades March 5, when the MIAA announced its annual awards. Senior swingman Joey Witthus took home MIAA Player of the Year, while freshman guard Trevor Hudgins grabbed the conference’s MIAA Freshman of the Year award.

Sophomore Ryan Hawkins won the conference MIAA Defensive Player of the Year award, and McCollum won his fifth MIAA Coach of the Year award.

The awards and the season as a whole have served as a testament to the program’s culture. In a year in which the Bearcats were picked to finish second in the conference by the preseason media poll, they didn’t lose a game.

Witthus winning the conference’s highest honor marked the fourth consecutive time a Bearcat has brought home the award after Justin Pitts won it three seasons in a row from 2016-2018.

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Northwest men’s basketball swept the MIAA regular season honors March 5, as (from left to right) senior Joey Witthus won MIAA Player of the Year, freshman Trevor Hudgins won MIAA Freshman of the year, sophomore Ryan Hawkins won MIAA Defensive Player of the Year and Ben McCollum won MIAA Coach of the Year.